FEDERAL CITY PERFORMING ARTS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 19th, 1994
Levine School of Music

Directors: Present: Boykin, Cohen, de Keyser, Fiorito, Greenwald, Haber, Madigan, Rosen, Streit, Wheeler, Weeks, Wells
Absent: Gerard (proxy assigned)
Guests: Holloway, McClelland

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Fiorito.

REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 12, 1994 MINUTES

Cohen asked that page 3, 6th paragraph, 4th sentence be changed to read "if the motion could be tabled..." and in the 7th paragraph, 1st sentence be changed to read "Cohen then moved that the original motion...".

Fiorito asked that page 1, under President's Report, 1st paragraph, 4th sentence be changed to read "He would be in favor of reimbursing the delegation fee for any board member..."

Motion to approve the minutes as amended:Streit. Second:Haber. Unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

McClelland reviewed last month's financial statements and asked for specific questions. Greenwald asked about the $5000 in restricted funds. McClelland stated that this was from the Dudley Memorial Fund, and that the money was given with stipulations. Greenwald then asked about the price on the new computer being more that the original computer. McClelland acknowledged that there were some changes in the computer system newly purchased. Fiorito agreed, saying we paid for a minor upgrade on the computer.

McClelland asked that all expenditures over $300 be cleared through him before they are made. He asked that everyone use the PO Box as the mailing address, not your personal address. This way bills can come to the chorus more promptly. Anyone who needs a tax exempt letter can get one through Charles. It makes recordkeeping much easier if a tax exempt letter is given to the vendor in the beginning of negotiations.

He stated that as of September 23, 1994, he received a letter from the Internal Revenue Service saying they are going to abate the penalty that we had accrued. The entire problem was through an error made at the IRS and they have now exonerated us of any wrongdoing.

Thirty nine season subscriptions have been returned as of this date. 252 season brochures were returned due to bad addresses.

Fiorito asked how many CDs we have left in stock. Weeks said we have approximately 600 CDs and 400 cassette tapes left. Fiorito announced that Weeks will now be in charge of distribution of CDs and tapes. He will report at the next meeting on the CD sales program.

Motion was made by Greenwald to accept the financial report. Seconded by Streit. Unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fiorito welcomed Steve Haber as our newest elected board member. Haber will be our primary contact for the GALA V festival in Tampa Bay. He will also be attending a meeting which will explore the possibility of Washington, DC as a site for the GALA 2000 festival. This meeting will be held November 9th at the home of Ken Cole. Anyone on the board or chorus is welcome to attend the meeting. This is only an exploratory meeting and Haber will be the chorus' lead person at this meeting. Rosen said that the Lesbian and Gay Chorus of Washington had announced the meeting this week at their rehearsal.

Fiorito stated that Haber has also been selected to be the board representative on the FCPAA By-Law review committee. Haber will be assisted by Peter Brayton and Dick Dorr. They have been mandated to review the By-Laws for several proposed clarifications/amendments. First they will help clarify that a Capital Club member on the board must be an active member of the Capital Club. At the same time, they will address what status a Capital Club board member will be if he becomes a member of GMCW. Next, a more flexible dues policy will be stated to incorporate the new per-concert dues regimen. Finally, they will make a recommendation on whether to expand the maximum number of Capital Club seats on the board from 3 to 6.

Weeks requested more clarification of why the number of Capital Club member slots on the board was being changed. Holloway said that he thought a committee should be formed to look at the entire board makeup. de Keyser stated that the By-Laws committee should look at this point, especially since the hiring of an Executive Director may change the duties of board members. Haber said that he feels there are two issues here, one is to clarify the By-Laws and an entirely different focus would be to look at board structure. He felt comfortable that this committee could clarify, but should not look at restructuring.

Fiorito agreed, and stated that he will attempt to form a Board Development Committee to work on the restructuring issues brought forth in the board meeting. If anyone has an interest in serving on this committee, please see Fiorito.

Weeks asked about clarification about small ensemble participation and chorus participation. Boykin stated that these regulations were already in the Membership Regulations. After reading them aloud, it was agreed that there is some possible misinterpretation of the rule, which is that a member can go on leave from the chorus for one concert period in a season, and still be active in a small ensemble. Haber agreed to look at this loophole and revise it as needed.

The meeting for clarification and revision of our long and short term goals will be held on January 28th from 9am-4:30 pm at Sumner School in DC. Comments from the various committees are due to Fiorito by December 1st, so that the draft can be passed out on December 14th at the board meeting.

The support section has requested that Larry and Barbara be given at least a week's notice if anyone has a special mailing to be done. Please contact Fred if there is an emergent need to have a mailing done so that he can get extra support section members to assist with the project.

Fiorito reminded us of his "pearl of wisdom" for this month, "Be Soft on Position, but Steadfast on Principle".

CHORUS HEALTH CHECK

This is a new portion of the board meeting initiated by Fiorito in order to get beyond formal committee reports and to allow board members to speak about their perceptions of the year. He will include two more Chorus Health Checks before the season is over.

Many board members expressed their positive and constructive comments at this time.

MUSIC DIVISION

Holloway stated that he has started to develop a long range plan for concerts, which include both 5 and 10 year planning. The '95-'96 season is beginning to take shape and is being planned by the Repertoire Advisory Committee. One major concern is the budgetary impact on GALA V and how that may affect our planning for the rest of the season. Also, the considerations of how much of an emphasis there will be on our 15th season is unclear as of yet. If anyone has ideas about this, please speak to Holloway in the next few weeks.

New Arts Six will possibly be performing with the Washington Philharmonic and the chorus. This is included in their contract that they would perform in another venue at no additional charge.

Weeks commended the Repertoire Advisory committee for its choice of Christmas concert music. He asked about a memorization schedule. Holloway advised that we will get a memorization schedule at the retreat.

MEMBERSHIP

Boykin reported that 40 people attended the tour of the Lincoln Theatre and all had excellent reviews. He reviewed the list of monthly events planned for Membership: November 19th will be a Bowling Party at Silver Spring's Bowl America. Rosen reported that this is the same night at the LGCW's benefit concert. December 17th will be Dupont Circle Christmas caroling, with a rehearsal at the Haber/Korpon residence, followed by caroling. December 24th will be our annual caroling at National Institutes of Health.

Planning for the retreat is going very well. We have approximately 110 people attending the retreat rehearsals. We have a new catering company, Cornucopia Catering, this year.

MARKETING

Cohen said that the season brochures have been mailed. We mailed approximately 6,000 items.

We have a full page ad in the Blade soon. The ad is borrowed from our season brochure. NoVAM has also mailed out an abbreviated form of the brochure to their members.

Cohen turned in a final written report of the Holiday Greeting Cards sold in 1993. Charlie Merk will be the lead person in our selling the 1994 Greeting Cards. Lambda Rising and Olssen's will also be selling the cards this season.

FUNDRAISING

Streit stated that Wheeler and his committee have worked very hard and have drafted a document for the proposal of an Executive Director. The committee is still working on grant proposals to try to get funding for the position.

We fulfilled our obligation from our $2500 DC Arts grant by having Potomac Fever sing at Whitman Walker clinic recently. Many thanks to Potomac Fever in assisting us in this regard.

We have 2 concert sponsors for the season so far. Annie's and Morris Van have agreed to be sponsors again this year. We have $2600 committed by them for sponsorships. The committee is still working on a third sponsorship.

Streit stated that almost 1/2 of those completing a season subscription order also made a donation to the chorus.

In total, from grants, sponsorships and season ticket donations, fundraising has brought in approximately $5500 so far this year.

PRODUCTION

Wheeler presented a flyer in which the Signature theatre thanked GMCW for use of stools they borrowed from us for one of their productions. They also took 100 of our season brochures to distribute.

Wheeler spoke about preparation for the Hospice Society performance. The small ensembles will preform on the Elevating Stage and the chorus will sing on the Main Stage. We will have the Lincoln Room as use for our green room.

George Mason requests that all advertisements and chorus notes be submitted by October 31st for the program.

On November 3rd, Wheeler will meet with Richard Dupler and Mary Ann at the Lincoln Theatre to review our recording capabilities there.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fiorito pointed out that all persons responsible for the chorus program needs to give their information to Kit Grieder by November 13th.

Greenwald asked could we pursue a small ensemble performance for NoVAM, since they were generous enough to mail our season brochure with their monthly mailing. Fiorito answered affirmatively.

Greenwald stated that the advertising team is still working very hard to get advertisers for the season. He passed out business cards to all board members, and stated that anyone who had corrections or needed more cards to let him know.

Weeks asked was a photographer going to take our picture on stage at the Lincoln. He also had concerns about the quality of our videotaping. Boykin said he had spoken to FLASH about possibly filming our concert. Rosen stated that LGCW has a professional videographer who taped their 10th anniversary concert, and who would be very inexpensive. Holloway stated that budget concerts forced him to cut videoing from his budget. Fiorito stated that anyone who is interested in pursuing either photography or videography to speak to him about a proposal.

Rosen asked about an audio recording at Lincoln. Fiorito has asked Omega Studios to be in charge of audio taping the concert. We will be recording a few numbers from our Christmas concert at the Lincoln on Saturday afternoon before the performance. These selections will hopefully be included on our future CD recording. We are reallocating monies from the CD recording that had originally be designated for a Potomac Fever recording.

There being no further business, Weeks moved to adjourn, Cohen seconded. Unanimously approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:46 pm.

Fred Boykin
Secretary
FCPAA Board of Directors